

Application No. 10/711,397  
Docket No. A4-1800  
Amendment dated June 6, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 4, 2005

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cast shoe for wearing on a casted foot, the cast shoe comprising:

an ~~air-insufflated~~ outer sole formed of a resilient polymeric material to absorb impact, the outer sole having a heel portion of substantially uniform thickness, a tapered toe portion that is thinner than the heel portion, an upper surface, and a lower surface that is curved as a result of the tapered toe portion to provide a single rocker bottom function in gait;

air pockets defined in the outer sole and containing entrapped air;

an inner sole overlying and attached to the upper surface of the outer sole;

a strap located adjacent the heel portion of the outer sole for securing the cast shoe to a casted foot; and

a tread pattern on the lower surface of the outer sole;

wherein the outer sole and the inner sole lack a rigid member and

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together the outer and inner sole define a sole that is flexible in its entirety.

Claim 2 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 1, wherein the strap comprises an elastic portion to place the strap in tension when the cast shoe is on the casted foot and the strap holds the cast shoe to the casted foot.

Claim 3 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 1, wherein the tread pattern comprises individual raised elements protruding from a surface of the outer sole.

Claim 4 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 3, wherein each of the raised elements tapers to increase in thickness toward the heel portion.

Claim 5 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 4, wherein each of the raised elements defines a peripheral wall that faces the heel portion and is approximately perpendicular to the surface of the outer sole.

Claim 6 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 3, wherein each of the raised elements defines a peripheral wall that faces the heel portion and is approximately perpendicular to the surface of the outer sole.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): The cast shoe according to claim 1, wherein the air pockets are ~~further comprising air pockets~~ defined in the upper surface of the outer sole and the inner sole closes at least some of the air pockets to entrap the air within.

Claim 8 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 7, wherein the air pockets are arranged in rows and columns.

Claim 9 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 8, wherein, the rows of the air pockets are oriented in a lateral direction of the cast shoe, and the columns of the air pockets are oriented in a toe-heel direction of the cast shoe.

Claim 10 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 8, wherein at least some of the air pockets in the toe portion of the outer sole have larger volumes than at least some of the air pockets in the heel portion of the outer sole.

Claim 11 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 1, further comprising an upper portion attached to the inner sole, the strap being attached

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to the upper portion.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A cast shoe for wearing on a casted foot, the cast shoe comprising:

an ~~air-insufflated~~ outer sole formed of a resilient polymeric material to absorb impact, the outer sole having a heel portion of substantially uniform thickness, a tapered toe portion that is thinner than the heel portion, an intermediate portion between the heel and toe portions having a substantially uniform thickness that is substantially equal to the thickness of the heel portion, a rocker pivot line separating the toe and intermediate portions and located from and end of the toe portion a distance of about one-third of the total length of the cast shoe, an upper surface, and a lower surface that is curved as a result of the tapered toe portion to provide a single rocker bottom function in gait;

air pockets defined in the upper surface of the outer sole;

an inner sole overlying and attached to the upper surface of the outer sole so as to close the air pockets;

an upper portion attached to the inner sole;

a proximal strap attached to the upper portion adjacent the heel portion of the outer sole for securing the cast shoe to a casted foot; and

a tread pattern on the lower surface of the outer sole, the tread

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pattern comprising individual raised elements protruding from a surface of the outer sole, each of the raised elements tapering to increase in thickness toward the heel portion;

wherein the outer sole and the inner sole lack a rigid member and together the outer and inner sole define a sole that is flexible in its entirety.

Claim 13 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein the proximal strap comprises an elastic portion to place the proximal strap in tension when the cast shoe is on the casted foot and the proximal strap holds the cast shoe to the casted foot.

Claim 14 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein the raised elements are arranged in rows and columns on the lower surface of the outer sole, the rows of the raised elements are oriented in a lateral direction of the cast shoe, the columns of the raised elements are oriented in a toe-heel direction of the cast shoe.

Claim 15 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein the raised elements are D-shaped in plan view.

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Claim 16 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 15, wherein each of the raised elements defines a curved peripheral wall that faces the heel portion and is approximately perpendicular to the surface of the outer sole.

Claim 17 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein the air pockets are arranged in rows and columns.

Claim 18 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 17, wherein the rows of the air pockets are oriented in a lateral direction of the cast shoe, and the columns of the air pockets are oriented in a toe-heel direction of the cast shoe.

Claim 19 (original): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein at least some of the air pockets in the toe portion of the outer sole have larger volumes than at least some of the air pockets in the heel portion of the outer sole.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The cast shoe according to claim 12, wherein the inner sole closes at least some of the air pockets to entrap air within. ~~the cast shoe is fitted onto the casted foot.~~